

**Nature in its Elements**

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**Abstract:** **Pristine** may not be a new word, but it is certainly the new costume that Nature has draped itself with today, after a long gap, courtesy 'man'. The Earth with its natural resources has been sustaining life, ever since the day of creation. In the course of evolution science tells us that due to mutations and changes new species evolved, adapting to the environment. When the ratio between the Producer and the User differed, Disasters became the talk of the times. Natural and man-made disasters have been taking a toll on the creatures: living and non-living. Today, more than the Corona virus, fear of death seems to be a matter of grave concern. Covid-19 is said to be a contagious virus and 'hiding away' is the mantra to be the only remedy to 'stay away' from being caught!

However when the world treats this virus as a killer, the earth seems to have reclined to relax, breathe, and allow Nature to have a setback. A rare glimpse of certain birds and animals joining this celebration of nature is a sigh of relief and joy to the nature lovers who are witnessing their dream come true of inhaling fresh air and clean waters and lands sans pollution. Let this covid-19 be treated as a warning and let us learn to be frugal by minimising the abuse of nature. "LIVE and LET LIVE".

Oh hear!

Nature has its day again, yes. Does it not make us rejoice to hear that tiny creatures and big occupants, or rather our co inhabitants are coming to the centre, to happily saunter the planet, as though "this is Eden Garden". And it appears as if they are in no mood to contemplate the presence or absence of 'MAN'. It seems to be their chance now to bounce back to the good old times, very, very, ancient, perhaps! Dating back to the Stone Age or even earlier, I cannot stroll down any further, because I want to experience this moment, truly. The Earth has waited for too long a period that man may have thought to have bought the earth and is therefore the Master, what a misery to the planet which had endured the destruction silently. Today, when the news across the globe flashes the deserted streets, villages, cities... sans people, Mother Earth must be having a hearty laugh, for it is her cradle which has been exploited beyond repair. Now is the time for the Mother to make amendments.

This **LOCKDOWN**, though man made is a clarion call, an alarming bell which rings to prove Nature's supremacy over its mortal inhabitants. A raw deal which should hit the so called temporal Masters like a hammer that would send the head reeling to realise the limits and also accept the truth that we are here for a short stay and that the Earth has been here forever and we do not own anything.

It is quite amusing that people find this quarantine unacceptable. "Ridiculous"! Says the Earth because it has been locked down for years in the name of civilization. Are we truly civilized? Well, there is no proof of it either. We are stuck to our rooms, letting the outer space to its legitimate shareholders. Yes, the invisible Virus has made some changes visible. We hear and see birds and animals walk gaily as if the blocks have been removed once and forever! Nature is now exhibiting its hidden colourful self, reassuring that Earth can once again bounce back to its pristine being, if left interrupted.

This pandemic has made us discover a new world where we have found some of that we had lost in the race behind abstract things in a materialistic approach. We hear relationships in new shades, filled with mirth and unconditional sharing of the living space. Singing, dancing, baking, and cleaning are no more the objects of the Lenses, but the activities flooding the packed Homes. We have learnt to dust our instincts to smile, to clap and share our concern and care to those selfless mortals striving hard to save us from the virus.

If this is our tale, who can narrate the story of the resilient nature, springing and offering abundance of joy and hope as we see the clear sky carrying the clouds in an endless voyage; the Earth dreaming in its fresh breath, flowing freely and merrily, making its presence felt by all those who have come to stay here in its lap, like a mother assuring comfort to her child. You are the embodiment of love and generosity, oh! Mother Earth. I bow to you and promise you that I shall ever love you for making my stay here in your kingdom a pleasant one.

I have a strong urge to say, Thank you Corona for helping Nature step out of its shell by shutting man into his cell. If this short spell can bring positive changes in nature, it is time we learnt to realize that at least from now we begin to live 'within' and not 'without'. Like all of us the Earth too needs a break, a "return of nature", celebrating its victory over man by happily correcting the wrongs as seen in regaining its:

- Cool and clean air, fresh as the first spring
- Clear and clean water
- Land free from dust and pollutants
- Having a whole Ozone layer
- Himalayas daunting its presence

These are only some of the wonders that were in the news, there could be many such changes happening silently around us, even it is due to this short break. Let humanity learn to “take part” in this victory. Post lockdown, let us wake up and step out only to share and co-exist for a harmonious and symbiotic way of life. Nature, the best teacher, still continues its mentoring by demonstrating the positive changes, leaving us with the option that:

*If corona leaves,  
Will peace be far behind?*

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